

MoU Signed Between Department of Defence Production and GSL



Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a miniratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial year 2017-18, here today.

- The annual MoU was signed between Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta on behalf of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), GSL Rear Adm (Retd) Shekhar Mital.
- This year's MoU target for „Revenue from Operations“ has been set at ₹ 1150 crore, which is 43 percent higher than the financial year 2016-17 target of ₹ 800 crore.
- Notably in financial year 2016-17, the Shipyard achieved historical high VoP of ₹ 1030 crore and PBT of ₹ 177 crore. GSL was adjudged as „Best Performing Shipyard“ by MoD.
- Target for PAT to Networth ratio has been set at 13.30 percent.
- Export target has been set at 28 percent of „Revenue from Operations“, which is highest among DPSU Shipyards.

Karnataka government appoints panel to design its own state flag



The Congress-led Siddaramaiah government in Karnataka has constituted a nine-member committee to study the possibility of designing its own „state flag“.

- The panel headed by Principal Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture is expected to prepare a design for a separate state flag and soon submit a report looking into the legal sanctity of the same to the state government.
- If the move does get legal sanction then it would make Karnataka the only second state in the country to officially have its own flag after Jammu & Kashmir, which enjoys special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.
- The committee was constituted following representations from Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha president Patil Puttappa and activist Bheemappa Gundappa Gadada from Belagavi.
- The social activists urged the government to design a separate flag for the state and accord statutory standing for it.
- Under the constitutional powers of a state, there is no law prohibiting a state from having its own flag.

Smriti Irani replaces Venkaiah Naidu as Information and

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Broadcasting Minister



Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani on 18 July 2017 was given additional charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

- The decision was taken following Venkaiah Naidu's resignation from the post to contest for the Vice-President election as the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- On the other hand, Union Minister of Mines Narendra Singh Tomar has been handed over the charge of the Urban Development Ministry, which was also held by Naidu.
- Naidu had resigned as the Union Minister on the night of 16 July 2017 after he was named by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as its vice presidential candidate against Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the opposition's nominee.

Israel to train Madhya Pradesh farmers in flowers, oranges farming



Israel will soon set up two agriculture excellence centres in Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with the Union government to impart training to farmers growing flowers and oranges, consul general of Israel David Akov, announced on Monday.

- "A total of 26 agriculture excellence centres are being set up in nine states of the country, while 15 such centres in states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana and Gujarat are already operational, 11 more will be developed soon," said Akov while addressing a press conference in the city.
- In Madhya Pradesh, the two centres will come up at Shyampur in Sehore and Dheripal in Shajapur.
- At Sehore, the centre will train farmers in cultivation of flowers, whereas in Shajapur, techniques of growing oranges will be taught.

Martin Landau, the actor who won Oscar for 'Ed Wood,' is no more



Martin Landau, the Oscar-winning actor who appeared in films like Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" as well as in the television series of the "Mission: Impossible" in the 1960s, has died. He died on 15 July 2017. He was 89.

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He died at UGFA Medical Center due to unexpected complications during a short hospitalisation. His

- He won his Academy Award (Oscars) for his poignant portrayal of washed-up Bela Lugosi in 1994's Tim Burton's Ed Wood.
- Born on 20 June 1928, was an American film and television actor.
- He began his career as a newspaperman at age of 17 at the New York Daily News as a staff cartoonist and illustrator.
- At that time, he was studying at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Kazan and Budapest to host 2022, 2024 FINA Short Course World Swimming Championships

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) on 17 July 2017 announced that the Russian city of Kazan and Hungarian city Budapest have been chosen to host the 2022, 2024 Short Course Swimming Championships respectively.



- FINA took the decision about the host cities for both events in a meeting at Budapest, the venue of the 2017 World Aquatics Championships.
- Besides the Russian and Hungarian metropolis, Hong Kong and Taipei City were the two other candidates.
- On the other hand, the Chinese city of Hangzhou is set to host the Short Course Swimming Championships in 2018, while Abu Dhabi will be the venue in 2020.
- The International Swimming Federation is the international federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for administering international competition in water sports.
- It is one of several international federations, which administer a given sport/discipline for the IOC and/or international community.

Lilly Singh appointed UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador

UNICEF today appointed Indian-origin Canadian YouTube star Lilly Singh as its newest Global Goodwill Ambassador at a special event here.



- Lilly was in the capital to support UNICEF's Youth4Change initiative, a programme for youth that brings them together to support their peers and communities in taking action on issues such as health, hygiene, child labour and gender equality.
- "I'm honoured to join UNICEF as a Goodwill Ambassador and to use my voice to support its mission of reaching every child. It's time to stand for what your kids want and not society," Lilly said.
- The YouTuber, famous as „Superwoman“, said she would come up with few videos in Hindi and would try to put Hindi subtitles in her English videos to

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- increase the reach of her vlogs and channel.
- As the UNICEF ambassador Lilly, who has 11.9 around million subscribers on the video sharing website, will use her channel to showcase the organisation's work and urge millions of her followers to work for children's rights.

